







# ROBIN Good-Fellow,

His Mad Pranks, and merry  
Iests,

Full of honest Mirth, and is a fit  
*Medicine for Melancholy.*



LONDON,  
Printed for F. Grove dwelling on Snow-hill  
over against the Sarafens head. 1628.







# ROBIN GOOD

Fellow, his made Prankes, and  
merry lests.



**N**ot omitting that Ancient  
foe, me of beginning Tales:  
Once upon a Time it was my  
chance to traualle into that  
noble County of Kent, the wea-  
ther beeing wet and my two-  
legd horse being almost tyred  
(for indeede my olde leggs  
were all the suppoxters that  
my body had) I went dropping into an Ale-house, there  
found I first a kinde well-come, next good liquoz, then  
kinde strangers, (which made good Company) then an  
honest Hoast, whose loue to good liquoz was written  
in red Characters, both in his nose, cheekes and fore-  
head; an Hoastesse I found there too, a woman of very  
good carriage, and though she had not so much colour  
(for what she had done) as her rich husband had, yet  
all beholders might perceiue by the roundnesse of her  
belly, that she was able to draw a pot dry at a draught  
and re'ceiue backe for the matter.

Well to the fire I went where I dyed my outside,  
and wet my inside; the Ale being good, and I in  
good Company, I lap in so much of this nappy li-  
quoz, that it begot in mee a boldnesse to talke and de-  
fire of them, to know what was the reason that the

## The merry Frankes

people of that Country were called Long-tayles. The  
Hoast sayd, all the reason that euer hee could heare  
was, beca se the people of that Country formerly  
did vse to goe in shoe skirred Coates: There is (sayd  
an old man that sat by) an other reason that I haue  
heard, that is this. In the time of the Saxons Con-  
quest of England, there were diuers of our Country-  
men slaine by Treachery, which made those that sur-  
uiued moze carefull in dealing with their enemies, as  
you shall heare.

After many ouerthrowes that our Country-men  
had receiued by the Saxons, they dispersed themselues  
into diuers Companies into Woods; and so did much  
damage by their suddaine assaults to the Saxons, that  
Hengist their King hearing the damage that they did,  
(and not knowing how to subdue them by force) vsed  
this Policy. Hee sent to a Company of them, and  
gaue them his word for their liberty and safe returns, if  
that they would come vnrmed and speake with him:  
This they seemed to grant vnto, but for their moze  
security (knowing how little hee esteemed oathes or  
promises) they went euery one armed with a shoze  
sword hanging last behind, vnder their garments, so  
that the Saxons thought not of any weapons they had  
but it proued otherwise: For when Hengist his  
men (that were placed to cut them off) fell all vpon  
them, they found such vnlooked a resistance, that  
most of the Saxons were slaine, and they that esca-  
ped wondering how they could doe that hurt hauing  
no Weapons, (as they saw) reported that they  
strucke downe men like Lyons with their Tayles,  
and so they euer after were called Kentish Long-  
Tayles.

I told him this was strange, if true, and that their  
Countries honor bound them moze to beleene in this,  
then it did me.

Truly



### of Robin Good-fellow.

Worthy Sir, sayd my Hoastelle, I thinke wee are called Long-Tayles, by reason our Tales are long that wee vie to passe the time withall, and make our selues merry: Now good Hoastelle sayd I, let me entreate from you one of those Tales: You shall (sayd shee) and that shall not be a common one neither, for it is a Long-Tale, a merry Tale, and a sweete Tale, and thus it beginnes.

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#### The Hoastelle Tale, of the birth of *Robin Good-fellow.*

**O**nce vpon a Time, a great while agoe, when men did eate more, and drinke lesse, then men were more honest, that knew no knauery, then some now are, that confesse the knowledge, and deny the practice: About that time (when so ere it was, there was wont to walke many harmelesse Spirits called Fayries, dancing in brane order in Fayry Kings on greene hills, with sweete Musicks, (sometime inuisible) in diuers shapes; many mad Drankes would they play, as pinching of Nuts black and blew, and misplacing things in ill ordered houses, but louingly would they vse Witches that cleanly were, giuing them Silver, and other pretty toys, which they would leaue for them sometimes in their shoes, other times in their pockets, sometimes in bright Basons and other cleane vessels.

Amongst these Fayries, was there a hee Fayrie, whether hee was then King or no, I know not, but surely hee had great gouernment, and command in that Country, as you shall heare: This same hee Fayrie did leue a proper young Wench, for euery night

## The merry Prankes

night would he with other Jappies come to the house, and there dance in her Chamber, and oftentimes she was forced to dance with him, and at his departure would he leaue her siluer and iewels, to expresse his loue vnto her: At last this mayde was with childe, and being asked who was the father of it? She answered, a man that nightly came to visit her, but earely in the morning he would go his way, whither she knew not, he went so suddenly.

Many old women that then had moze wit, then those that are now liuing, and haue lesse sayd, that a Fayrie had gotten her with childe, and they bid her be of good comfort, for the childe must needes be fortunate, that had so noble a Father as a Fayrie was; and should worke many strange Wonders: To be short, her time grew on and she was deliuered of a man childe, who (it should seeme) so reioyced his fathers heart, that e-uery night his mother was supplied with necessary things, that are besitting a woman in child-birth, so that in no meane manner neither, for there had shee rich embordered Cushions, Stooles, Carpits, Couerlets, delicate Linnen: Then for meate, shee had Capons, Chickins, Putton, Lambe, Pheasant, Snite, Woodcocks, Partridge, Quails: The Gossips liked this fare so well, that she neuer wanted company: Wine had shee of all sorts, as Muscadine, Sacke, Palmie, Clarret, White and Bassard; this pleased her Neighbours well, so that sone that came to see her, but they had home with them a medicine for the fleas: Sweet meates too had they in such abundance, that some of their teeth are rotten to this day; and for musicke shee wanted not, or any other thing she desired.

All praised this honest Fayrie for his care, and the childe for his beauty, and the mother for a happy woman. In brieft christened hee was, at the which all this



### of Robin Good-fellow.

this good cheare was doubled, which made most of the women so wise, that they forgot to make themselves bready, and so lay in their clothes; and none of them next day could remember the child's name but the Clarke, and hee may thank his Woeke for it, or else it had bene utterly lost: So much for the birth of little Robin.

### Of Robin Good-fellows behaviour when he was young.

**W**hen Robin was growne to five yeeres of age, hee was so knauish that all the neighbours did complaine of him, for no sooner was his mothers backe turned, but hee was in one knauish action or other, so that his mother was constrained (to auoyde the complaints) to take him with her to market, or wheresoener shee went or rid: But this helped little or nothing, for if hee rid befoze her, then would hee make mouthes, and ill-faoured faces at those hee met, if he rid behind her, then would hee clap his hand on his Eagle: So that his mother was weary of the many complaints that came against him, yet knew she not how to beat him lustily for it, because she neuer saw him doe that which was worthy blowes: The complaints were daily so renewed, that his mother promised him a whipping, Robin did not like that cheere, and therefore to auoyde it, hee ranne away, and left his mother a heavy woman for him.

## The merry Prankes

How *Robin Good-fellow* dwelt with  
a Taylor.

**A**fter that Robin Good-fellow had gone a great way from his mothers house, hee began to bee a hungry, and going to a Taylors house, hee asked something for Gods sake: the Taylor gave him meate, and vnderstanding that hee was masterlesse, hee took him for his man, and Robin so plyed his worke, that he got his Masters lone.

On a time his Master had a Gowne to make for a Woman, and it was to bee done that night, they both sate vp late, so that they had done all but setting on the sleeves by twelue a clocke: this master then being sleepe sayd, Robin, whip thou on the sleeves, then come thou to bed, I will goe to bed before; I will sayd Robin: So soone as his master was gone, Robin hung vp the gowne, and taking both sleeves in his hands, hee whipt and lashed them on the gowne, so stood he till the morning that his master came downe: His master seeing him stand in that fashion, asked him what hee did: Why quoth hee as you bid mee, whip on the sleeves: Whon Rogue sayd his Master, I did meane that thou shouldst haue set them on quickly and slightly: I would you had sayd so sayd Robin, for then had not I lost all this sleepe, to bee chozt his master was faine to do the worke; but ere hee had made an end of it, the woman came for it, and with a loud voyce chafed for her Gowne: The Taylor thinking to please her, bid Robin fetch the remnants that they left yesterday (meaning thereby meate that was left) but Robin to crosse his Master the n. . . brought  
downe



### of Robin Good-fellow.

betwixt the remnants of cloath that was left of the  
Gowne: At the sight of this, his master looked pale  
but the woman was glad, saying, I like this breake-  
fast so well, that I will give you a pint of wine to it:  
she sent Robin for the wine, but he never returned a-  
gaine to his master.

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What hapned to *Robin Good-fellow* after he went  
from the Taylor.

**A**fter Robin had traumiled a good dayes iourney  
from his masters house, hee late downe, and  
being weary hee fell a sleepe; no sooner had  
Slumber tooke full possession of him, and closed his long  
opened eye-lids, but hee thought hee saw many goodly  
proper personages in anticke measures, tripping about  
him, and withall hee heard such musick (as hee thought  
that Orpheus) that famous Greeke Fidler (had hee  
beene alive) compared to one of these, had beene as  
infamous as a Welch Harper that playes for chace and  
Onions; as delights most commonly last not long, so  
did those endower then hee would willingly they should  
hane none: and for very grieve hee awaked and found by  
him lying a scroule, wherein was written these lines  
following in golden letters.

Robin my only Sonne and Heire,  
How to liue take thou no care,  
By nature thou hast cunning shifts,  
Which Ile encrease, with other gifts:  
With what thou wilt, thou shalt it haue,  
And for to vex both foole and knave:  
Thou hast power to change thy shape  
To horse, to hog, to dog, to ape.

B 2

Trans-formed

## The merry Prankes

Trans-formed thus by any meanes,  
See none thou harm'it but knaues and queanes  
But loue thou those that honest be,  
And helpe them in necessity:  
Doe thus and all the world shall know  
The prankes of Robin Good-fellow:  
For by that name thou cald shalt be  
To ages last posterity:  
If thou obserue my iust command,  
One day thou shalt see Fayry Land;  
This more I giue, who tels thy prankes,  
From those that heare them, shall haue thanks.

Robin hauing read this, was very ioyfull, yet longed he to know whether he had this power or not, and to try if he wished for some meate, presently it was before him: Then wished he for Beere and Wine, he straight way had it: This liked him well, and because he was weary, he wished himselfe a Horse, no sooner was his wish ended, but he was transformed, and seemed a Horse of twenty pound price, and leaped, and curueted as nimble as if he had bene in stable at racke and manger a full moneth: Then wished he himselfe a Dog, and was so, then a Tree, and was so: so from one thing to another, till hee was certaine and well assured that hee could change himselfe to any thing whatsoever.

### How Robin Good-fellow serued a Clöwnish Fellow.

**R**obin Good-fellow going ouer a field, met with a Clöwnish Fellow, to whom he spake in this manner: Friend (quoth he) what is a Clocke?



*of Robin Good-fellow.*

**Clocke** : a thing (answered the Clowne) that shewes the time of the day : why then (said Robin Good-fellow) bee thou a Clocke, and tell me what time of the day it is ; I owe thee not so much service (answered hee againe) but because thou shalt thinke thy selfe beholding to mee, know that it is the same time of the day, as it was yesterday at this time.

These crosse answers vert Robin Good-fellow, so that in himselfe hee bowed to be reuenged of him, which he did in this manner.

Robin Good-fellow turned himselfe into a Bird, and followed this fellow ; who was going into a field a little from that place to catch a Horse that was at grasse : the Horse being wilde ran ouer Dike, and Hedge, and the fellow after, but to little purpose, for the Horse was too swift for him : Robin was glad of this occasion, for now or neuer was the time to put his reuenge in action.

Presently, Robin shaped himselfe like to the Horse that the fellow followed, and so stood before the fellow, presently the fellow took hold of him and got on his backe, but long had he not rid, but with a stumble he hurld this churlish Clowne to the ground, that he almost broke his necke, yet took he not this for a sufficient reuenge for the crosse answers he had receiued, but stood still and let the fellow mount him once more.

In the way the fellow was to ride, was a great plash of water of a good depth, thorow this must he of necessity ride : no sooner was hee in the midst of it, but Robin Good-fellow left him with nothing but a Back-saddle betwixt his leggs, and in the shape of a fish, swome to the shore, and ran away laughing, ho, ho, hoh : leaving the poore fellow almost drowned.

## The merry Prankes

How *Robin Good-fellow* helpt two louers, and  
deceiued an old man.

**R**Obin going by a *Wooode*, heard two *Louers* make great lamentation, because they were hindred from inioying each other by a cruell old leacher, who would not suffer this louing couple to marry: Robin pittying them, went to them and sayd: I haue heard your complaints, and do pittie you, be ruled by me, and I will see that you shall haue both your hearts content, and that suddainly if you please: After some amazement the maiden sayd, alas what how can that be? my *Uncle* because I will not grant to his lust, is so streight ouer me, and so oppresseth me with worke night and day, that I haue not so much time as to drinke or speake with this young man, whom I loue about all men liuing: If your worke be all that hindreth you (sayd Robin) I will see that done, aske me not how, nor make any doubt of the performance, I will doe it: Go you with your loue for 24. houres I will see you, in that time marry, or doe what you will, if you refuse my proffered kindnesse, neuer looke to enioy your wished for happinesse. I loue true louers, honest men, good-fellowes, good huswines, good meate, good drinke, and all things that good is, but nothing that is ill; for my name is Robin Good-fellow; and that you shall see that I haue power to performe what I haue undertaken, see what I can do, presently he turned himselfe into a horse, and away he ran: at the sight of which they were both amazed, but better considering with themselves, they both determined to make good vse of their time, and presently they went to an old *Fryer*, who presently married them:



### *of Robin Good-fellow.*

them: they payd him, and went their way, where they supped and lay, I know not, but surely they liked their lodging well the next day.

Robin when that he came nere the old mans house, turned himselfe into the shape of the young maide, and entred the house, where after much chiding he fell to the worke that the maye had to do, which hee did in halfe the time that another could do it in: The old man seeing the speede he made, thought that she had some meeting that night (so he toke Robin Good-fellow for his neece) therfore he gaue him order for other worke, that was too much for any one to be in one night: Robin did that in a trise, and playd many mad pranks before the day appeared.

In the morning hee went to the two louers to their bed-side, and bid God giue them loy, and told them all things went well, and that ere night he would bring them one 10 pounds of her Clinkles to beginne the world with: They both thanked him, which was all the requitall that hee looked for, and being therewith well contented, hee went his way laughing.

Home went he to the old man, who then was by, and maruailed how the worke was done so soone. Robin seeing that sayd, Sir I pray maruaile not, for a greater wonder then that this night hath happened to me, good neece what is that? (sayd the old man:) This Sir, but I shame to speake it yet I will: weary with worke I slepe, and I did dreame that I consented to that which you haue so often desired of me (you know what it is I mean) and me thought you gaue me as reward 10. pounds with your consent to marry that young man that I haue loued so long: Diddest thou dreame so? thy dreame I will make good. for vnder my hand wrighting, I giue my free consent to marry him, or whom thou doest please to marry: (and withall wit) and so the 10. pounds goes but into the out  
Earne

## The merry Pirnakes, &c.

Barne and I will bring it thee presently: How sayst thou (said the old leacher) wilt thou? Robin with silence did seeme to grant, and went toward the Barne, the old man made haste, told out his money, and followed.

Being come thither, he herled the money on the ground, saying: this is the most pleasing bargaine that euer I made; and going to embrace Robin, Robin took him vp in his armes and carried him forth; first, drew he him thorow a Pend to coole his hot blood, then did he carry him where the young married couple were, and said, Here is your Uncles consent under his hand, then here is 10. pounds he gave you, and there is your Uncle, let him deny it if he can.

The old man for feare of worse vsage, said, all was true: When am I as good as my word said Robin, and so went away laughing: The old man knew himselfe duly punished, and turned his hatred into loue, and thought afterward as well of them as if they had bene his owne. The second part shall shew many incredible things done by Robin Good-fellow, (or otherwise called Hob-Goblin.) and his Companions, by turning himselfe into diuers sundry Shapes.

FINIS.



THE SECOND PART  
of *Robin Good-Fellow*, commonly  
called *Hob-Goblin*: With his mad  
Prankes, and merry Iests.

3. 2.



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# THE SECOND PART OF ROBIN Good-fellow, commonly called Hob-Goblin.

How *Robin Good-fellow* helped a Mayde  
to worke.



Robin Good-fellow oftentimes would in the night visite Farmers Houses, and helpe the Maydes to breake Hempe, to bowlt, to dresse Flaxe, and to spin and do other woorkes, for hee was excellent in euery thing: One night hee comes to a Farmers House where there was a good handsome mayde, this mayde hauing much worke to do, Robin one night did helpe her, and in six houres did bowlt more then she could haue done in twelue houres: The mayde wondered the next day how her worke came, and to know the doer, shee watched the next night that did follow: about twelue of the Clocke in came Robin, and fell to breaking of Hempe, and for to delight himselfe, he sung this mad Song:

And can the Phyfitian make sicke men well?  
And can the Magician a fortune Deuine?  
Withou Lilly, Germander, and sops in Wine?

¶ 2

with

The second part

with sweet-bryer,  
and bon-fire,  
and straw-berry wyer,  
and Collumbine.

Within and out, in and out round as a ball,  
With hither and thither, as strait as a line,  
With Lilly, Germander, and sops in wine :

with sweet-bryer,  
and bon-fire,  
and straw-berry wyer,  
and Collumbine.

When Saturne did lue, there liued no poore,  
The King and the Begger with rootes did dine,  
With Lilly, Germander, and sops in wine :

with sweet-bryer,  
and bon-fire,  
and straw-berry wyer,  
and Collumbine.

The Mayde seeing him bare in clothes, pittied him,  
and against the next night prouided him a wast-coate :  
Robin comming the next night to worke as he did be-  
fore, espied the wast-coate, whereat he started & said :

Because thou lay'st me himpen, hampen,  
I will neither bolt, nor stampen :  
'Tis not your garments new or old  
That Robin loues, I feele no cold :  
Had you left me milke, or creame,  
You should haue had a pleasing dreame ;  
Because you left no drop, or crum,  
Robin neuer more will come.



of Robin Good-fellow.

So went hee away laughing ho, ho, hoh : the mayde  
was much grieued and discontented at his anger, for  
euer after she was faine to do her worke her selfe, with-  
out the helpe of Robin Good-fellow.

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How Robin Good-fellow led a company of  
fellowes out of their way.

**A** Company of young men hauing beene ma-  
king merry with their sweet hearts, were at  
their comming home, to come ouer a Heath:  
Robin Good-fellow knowing of it, met them;  
and to make some pastime, hee led them vp and downe  
the Heath a whole night, so that they could not get out  
of it, for hee went befoze them in the shape of a walk-  
ing fire, which they all sawe and followed till the day  
did appeare, then Robin left them, and at his departure  
spake these wordes:

Get you home, you merry Lads,  
Tell your Mammies and your Dads,  
And all those that newes desire,  
How you saw a walking fire.  
Wenches that doe smile, and lispe,  
Use to call me willy Wispe;  
If that you but weary be,  
It is sport alone for me:  
Away vnto your houses goe,  
And I'll goe laughing ho, ho, hoh.

The fellowes were glad that he was gone, for they were  
all in a great feare that hee would haue done them some  
mischefe.

## The second part

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How *Robin Good-fellow* scrued a Lecherous Gallant.

**R**obin alwayes did helpe those y<sup>e</sup> suffered wrong, and neuer would hurt any but those that did wrong to others. It was his chance one day to goe thro<sup>gh</sup> a field where he heard one call for helpe, hee going nere where he heard the cry, saw a lusty Gallant that would haue forced a young maiden to his lust: but the mayden in no wise would yelde, which made her cry for helpe: Robin good-fel-low seeing of this, turned himselfe into the shape of a Hare, and so ranne betweene the lustfull Gallants legges: this Gallant thinking to haue taken him, hee presently turned himselfe into a Horse, and so perforce carried away this Gallant on his backe; the Gentleman cryed out for helpe, for he thought that the Diuell had bin come to fetch him for his wickednesse, but his crying was in vaine, for Robin did carry him into a thicke Hedge, and there left him so prickt and scratched, that hee more desired a playster for his paine, then a trench for his pleasure. Thus the poore mayde was freed from this Ruffin, and Robin Good-fellow to see this Gallant so tame, went away laughing, h o, ho, ho.

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How *Robin Good-fellow* turned a miserable Usurer to a good house-keeper.

**I**n this Country of ours there was a rich man dwel-  
ling, who to get wealth together, was so sparing,  
that hee could not find in his heart to giue his belly  
sode enough: In the Winter hee neuer would  
make



### *of Robin Good-fellow.*

make so much fire as would roast a Blacke-pudding, for hee found it more profitable to sit by other mens: His apparell it was of the fashion that none did weare, for it was such that did hang at a Wokers Hall till it was as weather-beaten as an old signe: This man for his couetousnesse was so hated of all his neighbours, that there was not one that gaue him a good word. Robin Good-fellow grieved to see a man of such wealth doe so little good, and therefore practised to better him in this manner.

One night the Usurer being in bed, Robin in the shape of a Night-Raven came to the Window, and there did beate with his wings, and croaked in such manner, that this old Usurer thought hee should haue presently dyed for feare. This was but a preparation to what he did intend, for presently after hee appeared before him at his Bed-side in the shape of a Ghost with a Torch in his hand, at the sight of this the old Usurer would haue risen out of his bed, and haue leaped out at the Window, but he was stayed by Robin Good-fellow, who spake to him thus.

If thou stirre out of thy bed,  
I doo vow to strike thee dead.  
I doe come to doe thee good,  
Recall thy wits and starkled blood:  
The mony which thou vp dost store,  
In soule and body makes thee poore:  
Doe good with mony while you may,  
Thou hast not long on earth to stay,  
Doe good I say, or day and night,  
I houely thus will thee affright.  
Thinke on my words and so farwell,  
For being bad, I line in hell.

Having said thus, he vanished away, and left this  
Usurer

## The second part

Aliter in a great terroz of mind; and for feare of being  
frighted againe with this Ghost, hee turned very libe-  
rall, and lived amongst his neighbours as an honest  
man should doe.

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How Robin Good-fellow loued a Weauers wife,  
and how the Weauer would haue  
drowned him.

**O**ne day Robin Good-fellow walking thorow  
the streete, found at a doore sitting a pretty  
woman, this woman was wife to the Wea-  
uer, and was a winding of quilts for her Hus-  
band: Robin liked her so well, that for her sake he be-  
came seruant to her Husband, and did daily worke at  
the home: but all the kindnesse that hee shewed was  
but lost, for his Mistres would shew him no fauour,  
which made him many times to exclaime against the  
whole sex in Satyrlicall Songs; and one day being at  
worke, he sung this: To the tune of Reioyce Bag-pipes.

Why should my Loue now waxe  
Vnconstant, wauering, fickle, vnstayed?  
With nought can she me taxe,  
I ne're recanted what I once said.  
I now doe see as Nature fades,  
And all her workes decay:  
So women, all Wiues, Widdowes, Maydes,  
From bad to worse doe stray.

As hearbs, trees, rootes, and plants,  
In strength and growth are daily lesse,  
So all things haue their wants,  
The heauenly signes mooue and digresse;

And



*of Robin Good-fellow.*

And honesty in womens hearts  
Hath not her former being,  
Their thoughts are ill like other parts,  
Nought else in them's agreeing.

If sooner though Thunder  
Had power or'e the Laurell Wreath,  
Then ~~shee~~ womens wonder  
Such periurd thoughts should liue to breathe:  
They all Hyena like will weepe,  
When that they would deceiue:  
Deceit in them doth lurke and sleepe,  
Which makes me thus to grieue.

Young mares delight farwell,  
Wine, women, game, pleasure, adieu:  
Content with me shall dwell,  
I'le nothing trust but what is true.  
Though she were false, for her I'le pray,  
Her false-hood made me blest:  
I will renew from this good day,  
My life by sinne oppress.

Moued with this song and other complaints of his,  
shee at last did fancy him., so that the Meaneer did  
not like, that Robin should be so saucy with his  
Wife; and therefore gaue him warning to be gone  
for hee would keepe him no longer. This grieved  
this louing couple to parte one from the other,  
which made them to make vse of the time that  
they had. The Meaneer one day comming in, found  
them a kissing: at this hee said, but bowed in him-  
selfe to be reuenged of his men that night following:  
night being come, the Meaneer went to Robins bed  
and tooke him out of it, (as hee then thought)  
and ran apace to the Riuer side to hurle Robin in;  
D but

## The second part

but the *Wleaner* was deceived, for Robin instead of himselfe had laid in his bed a sack full of yarne, it was that that the *Wleaner* carried to *Dolone*, the *Wleaner* standing by the *River* side said: Now I will coole your hot blood Master Robert, and if you cannot swimme the better, you shall sincke and *Dolone*, with that he hurled the sack in, thinking that it had bin Robin Good-fellow. Robin standing behind him said:

For this your kindnesse Master I you thanke,  
Go swimme your selfe, I'll stay vpon the banke.

With that Robin pushed him in and went laughing away, ho, ho, hoh.

---

How Robin Good-fellow went in the shape of a  
Fidler to a wedding, and of the sport  
that he had there.

**O**n a time there was a great Wedding, to which there went many young-lusty Lads, and pretty Lasses: Robin Good-fellow longing not to bee out of Action, shaped himselfe like vnto a Fidler, and with his Crowd vnder his arme went amongst them and was a very welcome man. There played hee whilst they danced; and tooke as much delight in seeing them, as they did in hearing him: at dinner he was desired to sing a song, which hee did, to the tune of Watton Townes end.

### The Song.

It was a Country Lad  
That fashions strange would see,  
And he came to a Valting Schoole,  
Where Tumblers vse to be:

He



*of Robin Good-fellow.*

He lik't his sport so well,  
That from it he'd not part,  
His Doxey to him still did cry,  
Come Busse thine owne sweet heart.

They lik't his Gold so well,  
That they were both content,  
That he that night with his sweet heart  
Should passe in merry-ment :  
To Bed they then did goe,  
Full well he knew his part :  
Where he with words, and eke with deedes,  
Did Busse his owne sweet heart.

Long were they not in Bed,  
But one knocke at the dore,  
And said, Up, rise, and let me in :  
This vnt both Knaue and Whore :  
He being fore perplext,  
From Bed did lightly start,  
No longer then could he indure  
To Busse his owne sweet heart.

With tender steps he trod  
To see if he could spye  
The man that did him so molest,  
Which he with heavy eye  
Had soone beheld, and said,  
Alas my owne sweet heart,  
I now doe doubt if er'e we Busse,  
It must be at a Cart.

At last the Bawd arose  
And opened the dore,  
And saw Discretion cloth'd in rug,  
Whose Office hates a Whore :

## The second part

He mounted v<sup>p</sup> the stayres,  
Being cunning in his arte,  
With little search, at last he found  
My youth and his sweete heart.

He hauing wit at will,  
Vnto them both did say :  
I will not heare them speake one word,  
Watch-men, with them away ;  
And cause they lou'd so well,  
'Tis pittie they shou'd part :  
Away with them to new Bride-well,  
There busse y<sup>e</sup> our owne sweet heart.

His will it was fulfilld,  
And there they had the Law :  
And whilst that they did nimbly spin,  
The hempe he needs must taw :  
He grownd, he thump't, he grew  
So cunning in his arte,  
He learnt the trade of beating hempe,  
By bussing his sweet heart.

But yet he still would say,  
If I could get release,  
To see strange fashions Ile giue o're,  
And henceforth liue in peace :  
The Towne where I was bred,  
And this ke by my desert,  
To come no more into this place,  
For bussing my sweet heart.

They all liked his Song very well, and said that the  
young man had but ill lucke : thus continued he play-  
ing and singing Songs till Candle light, then he  
beganne to play his merry trickes in this manner:  
First



### *of Robin Good-fellow.*

First hee put out the Candles, and then being darke, hee stricke the men good bores on the eares, they thinking it had bene those that did sit next them, fell a fighting one with the other: So that there was not one of them but had either a broken head, or a bloody nose: at this Robin laughed heartily, the women did not scape him, for the handsomest hee kissed, the other hee pinched and made them scratch one the other, as if they had bene Cats: Candles being lighted againe, they all were friends, and fell againe to dancing, and after to supper.

Supper being ended, a great Posset was brought forth, at this Robin Good-fellowes teeth did water, for it looked so leucly, that hee could not keepe from it: So attaine to his wish he did turne himselfe into a Beare, both men and women (saying a Beare amongst them) ranke away and left the whole Posset to Robin Good-fellow, he quickly made an end of it, and went away without his money: For the sport hee had was better to him then any money whatsoever. The feare that the Guests were in did cause such a smell, that the Bride-grome did call for perfumes: and in stead of a Posset he was faine to make vse of cold Beere.

---

*How Robin Good-fellow serued a Tapster for  
nicking his pots.*

**T**HERE was a Tapster, that with his pots smalne, and with frothing of his drinke, had get a good summe of money together: This nicking of the pots he would neuer leave, yet diuers times he had bin vnder the hand of authority, but  
D 3 what

## The second part

What money soever hee had so: his abused, hee would be sure (as they all doe) to get it out of the poore mans pot againe. Robin Good-fellow hating such knauery, put a tricke vpon him in this manner.

Robin shap'd himselfe like to the Tapsters Brother, and came and demanded twenty pounds which was due to him from the Tapster: the Tapster thinking it had beene his Brother, pay'd him the money, which money Robin gaue to the poore of that Parish before the Tapsters face: the Tapster praised his charity very much, and said, What God would blesse him the better so: such good deedes: so after they had dranke one with the other, they parted.

Some foure dayes after the Brother himselfe came so: his money, the Tapster told him that it was pay'd, and that hee had a quittance from him to shew: which the Brother did wonder, and desired to see the quittance; The Tapster fetched him a writing which Robin Good-fellow had giuen him in stead of a quittance, wherein was written as followeth, which the Brother read to him.

I *Robin Good-fellow*, true man and honest man, doe acknowledge to haue receiued of Nicke and Froth the Cheating Tapster, the summe of twenty pound, which money I haue bestowed (to the Tapsters content) amongst the poore of the Parish, out of whose pockets this aforelayd Tapster had picked the afore-said summe; not after the manner of toasting, but after his excellent skill of bombasting, or a pint for a peny.

If now thou wilt goe hang thy selfe,  
Then take thy Apron-strings.

It



*of Robin Good-fellow.*

It doth me good when such foule birds  
Vpon the Gallows sings.

*Per me Robin Good-fellow.*

At this the Tapster swoze Walsingham, but for all  
his swearing, the Brewer made him to pay him his  
twenty pound.

How King Obreon called *Robin Good-fellow* to dance.

**K**ing Obreon seeing *Robin Good-fellow* doe so  
many honest and merry trickes, called him  
one night out of his Bed, with these words,  
saying:

Robin my Sonne, come quickly rise,  
First stretch, then yawne, and rub thy eyes,  
For thou must goe with me to night,  
To see and taste of my delight:  
Quickly come my wanton Sonne,  
'Twere time our sports were now begunne.

Robin hearing this, rose and went to him, there  
were with King Obreon a many fiddlers all attyzed in  
greene silke, all these with King Obreon did welcome  
*Robin Good-fellow* into their company. Obreon tooke  
Robin by the hand and led him a dance, their Musician  
was the little Tom Thumb, for hee had an excellent  
Bag-pipe made of a Ravens quill and the skin of a  
Greene land louse: This Pipe was so shrill & so sweete  
that a Scottish pipe compared to it, it would no more  
come neere it, then a Jewes Trump doth to an Irish  
Harpe: After they had danced, King Obreon spake to  
his Sonne *Robin Good-fellow* in this manner:

When

## The second part

When ere you heare my Piper blow,  
From thy bed see that thou goe,  
For nightly you must with vs dance,  
When we in circles round doe prance.  
I loue thee Sonne, and by the hand,  
I carry thee to Fairy Land;  
Where thou shalt see what no man knowes,  
Such loue thee King Obreon owes.

So marched they in good manner (with their Piper before) to the Fairy Land, there did King Obreon shew Robin Good-fellow many secrets which hee neuer did open to the world.

---

How Robin Good-fellow was wont to walke  
in the night.

**R**Obin Good-fellow would many times walke in the night with a Broome on his Shoulder, and cry chimney sweepe, but when any one did call him, then would he runne away laughing Ho, ho, hoh: Sometime hee would counterfeite a Begger begging very pitifully, but when they came to giue him an almes, he would runne away laughing as his manner was: Sometimes would hee knocke at mens doores, and when the seruants came, hee would blow out the Candle if they were men, but if they were women, hee would not onely put out their light, but kisse them full sweetly and then go away as his fashion was, ho, ho, hoh: Oftentimes would hee sing at a doore like a singing man, and when they did come to giue him his reward, he would turne his backe and laugh.

An



*of Robin Good-fellow.*

in these humors of his, hee had many pretty songs,  
which I will sing as perfect as I can. For his Chimney  
sweepers humors he had these songs: The first is to the  
tune of, I haue beene a Fiddler these fiftene yeeres.

Blacke I am from head to foote,  
And all doth come by chimney foote:  
Then maydens come and cherrish him,  
That makes your chimnies neate and trim.

Hornes haue I store, but all at my backe,  
My head no ornament doth lacke:  
I giue my hornes to other men,  
And ne're require them againe.

Then come away you wanton wiues,  
That loue your pleasures as your liues:  
To each good woman Ile giue two,  
Or more if she thinke them too few.

Then should he chang his note and sing this following.  
To the tune of, What care I how faire she be?

Be she blacker then the stocke,  
It that thou wilt make her faire,  
Put her in a Cambricke smocke,  
Buy her paint, and flaxen haire.

One your Carrier brings to Towne,  
Will put downe your City bred:  
Put her on a Brokers Gowne,  
That will sell her mayden-head.

Comes your Spaniard proud in minde,  
Heele haue the first cut or else none:  
The meeke Italian comes behind,  
But your French-man pickes the bone.

E

Still

## The second part

Still she trades with Dutch and Scot,  
Irish and the Germaine tall:  
Till she get the thing you wot,  
Then her end's and Hospitall.

### A Song to the tune of the Spanish Pavin.

When Vertue was a Country maide,  
And had no skill to set vp trade,  
She came vp with a Carriers lade,  
And lay at racke and manger.  
She whipt her pipe, she drunke her can,  
The pot was nere out of her span,  
She married a Tobacco-man,  
A Stranger, a Strangerr.

They set vp shop in Hunney-lane,  
And thither flies did swarme amaine,  
Some from France, some from Spaine,  
Traind in by scuruy Panders:  
At last this huney pot grew dry,  
Then both were forced for to fly  
To Flanders, to Flanders.

### Another to the tune of the Coranto.

I peeped in at the Wooll sacke,  
O what a goodly sight did I  
Behold at mid-night chyme:  
The wenches were drinking of muld-sacke,  
Each youth on his knee that then did want  
A yeere and a halfe of his time;  
They leaped, and skipped,  
They kissed, and they clipped,  
And yet it was counted no crime.

The Grocers chiefe seruant brought sugar,  
And



*of Robin Good-fellow.*

And out of his leather pocket he puld  
And kuld some pound and a halfe :  
For which he was sufferd to smacke her,  
That was his sweet-heart, and would not depart,  
But turn'd and lickt the Calfe :

He rung her, and he flung her,  
He kist her, and he swung her,  
And yet she did nothing but laugh.

Thus would he sing about Cities and Townes, &  
When any one cald him, he would change his shape, and  
goe laughing ho, ho, hoh : For his humors of begging,  
he vsed this Song to the tune of, The Iouiall Tinker.

Good people of this mansion,  
Vnto the poore be pleased  
To doe some good, and giue some food,  
That hunger may be eased :  
My limbes with fire are burned,  
My goods and lands defaced ;  
Of wife and child, I am beguild,  
So much am I debased :  
Oh giue the poore some bread, cheese, or butter,  
Bacon, hempe, or Flaxe,  
Some pudding bring, or other thing,  
My need doth make me aske.

I am no common Begger,  
Nor am I skild in canting :  
You nere shall see a wench with me,  
Such trickes in me are wanting :  
I curse not if you giue not,  
But still I pray and blesse you,  
Still wishing ioy, and that annoy  
May neuer more possesse you :  
Oh giue the poore, some bread, cheese, or butter,  
Bacon, hempe, or flaxe,

## The second part

Some pudding bring, or other thing,  
My need doth make me aske.

When any came to releue him, then would he change  
himselfe into some other shape, and runne laughing  
ho, ho, hoh. Then would hee shape himselfe like to a  
singing man, and at mens windowes and doores, sing  
ciuill and vertuous Songs: one of which I will sing,

To the tune of, Broome.  
If thou wilt lead a blest and happy life,  
I will describe the perfect way:  
First must thou shun all cause of mortall thife,  
Against thy lusts continually to pray.

Attend vnto Gods word,  
Great comfort 'twill afford,  
'Twill keepe thee from discord,  
Then trust in God the Lord:  
for euer,  
for euer,  
And see in this thou perseuer.

So soone as day appeareth in the East,  
Giue thanks to him and mercy craue,  
So in this life thou shalt be surely blest,  
And mercy shalt thou find in graue.

The conscience that is cleere,  
No horror doth it feare,  
'Tis voyd of mortall care,  
And neuer doth despaire:

but euer,  
but euer,  
Doth in the Word of God perseuer.

Thus liuing when thou drawest to thy end,  
Thy ioyes they shall much more encrease:  
For then thy soule, thy true and louing friend,  
By death shall find a wish't release.

From



*of Robin-fellow.*

From all that caused sinne,  
In which it liued in :  
For then it doth beginne,  
Those blessed ioyes to win :  
for euer,  
for euer,  
For there is nothing can them feuer.

Those blessed ioyes which then thou shalt possesse,  
No mortall tongue can them declare :  
All earthly ioyes compar'd with this are lesse  
Then smallest mote, to the world so faire.

Then is not that man blest,  
That must inioy this rest :  
Full happy is that guest,  
Inuited to this feast ,  
that euer,  
that euer,  
Indureth, and is ended neuer.

When they opened the window or doore, then would  
hee runne away laughing, ho, ho, hoh : Sometimes  
would be goe like a Bell-man in the night, and with  
many pretty verses delight the eares of those that wa-  
ked at his Bell ringing: his verses were these.

Maydes in your smockes,  
Looke well to your lockes,  
And your Tinder-boxe,  
Your wheeles and your rockes,  
Your Hens and your Cockes,  
Your Cowes and your Oxe,  
And beware of the Foxe,  
Whenthe Bell-man knockes,  
Put out your fire and candle light,  
So they shall not you affright :

## The second part

May you dreame of your delights,  
And in your sleeps see pleasant sights :  
Good rest to all both old and young :  
The Bell-man now hath done his long.

Then would he goe laughing, ho, ho, hoh, as his  
vse was, thus would he continually practise himselfe in  
honest mirth, neuer doing hurt to any that were cleanly  
or honest minded.

---

How the Fairyes called Robin Good-fellow to dance  
with them, and how they shewed him their  
seuerall conditions.

**R**Obin Good-fellow being walking one night  
heard the excellent musicke of Tom Thumbs  
bjaue Bag-pipe : he remembryng the sound (ac-  
cording to the command of King Obreon) went  
toward them: they for ioy that he was come, did circle  
him in, and in a ring did dance round about him. Ro-  
bin Good-fellow seeing their loue to him, danced in the  
midst of them, and sang them this Song to the tune of,  
To him Buu.

### The Sung.

Round about little ones, quicke, and nimble :  
In and out wheele about, run, hop, or amble :  
Ioyne your hands louingly, well done Musition :  
Mirth keepeth man in health like a Phisicion.  
Elues, Vrchins, Goblins all, and little Fairyes  
That doe filch, blacke, and pinch, mayds of the Dairyes,  
Make a ring on this grasse, with your quicke measures :  
Tom shall play, and Ile sing, for all your pleasures.

Pinch,



*of Robin Good-fellow.*

Pinch, and Patch, Gull, and Grim,  
Goe you together,  
For you can change your shapes  
Like to the Weather,  
Sib, and Tib, Licke, and Lull,  
You all haue trickes too,  
Little Tom Thumb that pipes,  
Shall goe betwixt you,  
Tom, tickle vp thy Pipes,  
Till they bee weary,  
I will laugh ho, ho, hoh,  
And make me merry.  
Make a ring on this grasse,  
With your quicke measures:  
Tom shall play, I will sing,  
For all your pleasures.

The Moone shines faire and bright,  
And the Owle hollows,  
Mortals now take their rests  
Vpon their pillows:  
The Bats abroad likewise,  
And the night Rauens:  
Which doth vse for to call,  
Men to Deaths hauens.  
Now the Mice peepe abroad,  
And the Cats take them:  
Now doe young Wenches sleepe,  
Till their Dreames wake them.  
Make a ring on the grasse  
With your quicke measures:  
Tom shall play, I will sing,  
For all your pleasures.

Thus danced they a good space, at last they left and sat  
Downe

## The second part

downe vpon the grasse: and to requite Robin good-fel-  
lowes kindnesse, they promised to tell to him all the ex-  
ploits that they were accustomed to doe. Robin thanked  
them and listened to them, and one began to tell his  
Trickes in this manner.

### The Trickes of the Fayry called Pinch.

**A**fter that wee haue danced in this manner as  
you haue beheld, I that am called Pinch, doe goe  
about from house to house: sometimes I find the  
doores of the house open, that negligent seruant  
that left them so, I doe so nip him or her, that with my  
pinches their bodies are as many colours as a Duck-  
rels backe: then take I them & lay them in the doore,  
naked or vncloathed I care not whether there they lye  
many times till broad day, ere they waken: and many  
times against their wills, they shew some parts about  
them, that they would not haue openly seene.

Sometimes I find a Slut sleeping in the chimney cor-  
ner, when she should be washing of her dishes, or doing  
something else which she hath left vndone: her I pinch  
about the armes, for not laying her armes to her labo-  
r: some I find in their Bed snoozing and sleeping, and  
their houses lying as cleane as a wastie dogges kennell, in  
one corner bones, in another egg-shells, behind the doore  
a heap of dust, the dishes vnder feet, and the Cat in the  
Cubboord: all these Slutish trickes I doe reward with  
blue legges, and blue armes, I find some Houens too  
as well as Sluts, they pay for their beaustinesse too as  
well as the women-kind; so if they vncase aauen &  
not vntye their points, I so pay their armes that they  
cannot sometimes vntye them if they would: those that  
leave foule shooes, or goe into their beds with their  
stockings on, I vse them as I did the former, and neuer  
leaueth them till they haue left their beaustinesse.

Ent



But to the good I doe no harme,  
But couer them, and keepe them warme:  
Sluts and slouens I doe pinch,  
And make them in their beds to winch:  
This is my practice, and my trade,  
Many haue I cleanelly made.

The trickes of the Fayry called Pach.

**A**Bout mid-night do I walke, and for the trickes  
I play, they call me Pach. When I finde a  
 Slut asleepe, I smuch her face if it be cleane, but  
 if it be durty, I wash it in the next pisse-pot that  
 I can finde, the Walls I vse to wash such Sluts withall  
 is a Doms pan-cake, or a Pilgrimes salve: Those  
 that I find with their heads nitty and scabby, for  
 want of combing, I am their Barbers, and cut their  
 haire as close as an Apes Tayle: or else clap so much  
 pitch on it, that they must cut it off themselves to  
 their great shame: Slouens also that neglect their ma-  
 sters businesse, they doe not escape: Some I find that  
 spoyle their masters horses for want of currying, those  
 I doe daube with g ease and softe, that they are faine to  
 curry themselves ere they can get cleane: others that  
 for lazie nesse will giue the poore Beasts no meate, I of-  
 tentimes so punish them with blowes, that they cannot  
 see themselves they are so soze.

Thus many trickes I Pach can doe,  
But to the good I ne're was foe:  
The bad I hate, and will doe euer,  
Till they from ill themselves doe seuer:  
To helpe the good Ile run and goe,  
The bad no good from me shall know.

The

The trickes of the Fairy called Gull.

**W**hen mortals keep their Beds, I walke  
broad: and for my pranks am called by the  
name of Gull: I with a fayned voyce doe  
often deceiue many men, to their great a-  
mazement: Many times I get on men and women, &  
so lye on their Stomackes, that I cause their great  
paine, for which they call me by the name of Wagge, or  
Fright-mare: 'Tis I that doe steale children, and in  
the place of them leaue Changelings: Sometime I al-  
so steale milke and Creme, and then with my bro-  
thers Patch, Pinch, and Grim, & sisters Sib, Tib, Licke,  
and Lull, I feast with my holne goods: our little Piper  
hath his share in all our spoiles, but hee nor our wo-  
men Fayries doe euer put themselves in danger to doe  
any great exploit.

What Gull can doe, I haue you showne,  
I am inferior vnto none:

Command me *Robin*, thou shal know,  
That I for thee will ride or goe:

I can doe greater things then these  
Vpon the land; and on the Seas.

The trickes of the Fairy cald Grim.

**I** Walke with the Owle, and make many to cry as  
loud as the doth hollow: Sometimes I doe affright  
many simple people, for which some of them haue  
termed me the Blacke dog of New-gate: At the mee-  
tings of young men and maydes I many times am,  
and when they are in the midst of all their good cheare,  
I come in, in some learefull shape and affright them,  
and then carry away their good cheare, and eate it  
with my fellow Fayries: 'Tis I that do like a Scritch-  
Owle cry at sick mens windows, which makes the  
healers so learefull, that they say, that the sick person

cannot



cannot live: Many other wyes haue I to fright the  
Simple, but the vnderstanding man I cannot mooue  
to feare, because he knowes I haue no power to do hurt.

My nightly businesse I haue told,  
To play these trickes I vse of old:  
When candles burne but blue and dim,  
Old folkes will say, Here's Fairy Grim:  
More trickes then these I vse to doe,  
Hereat cry'd Robin, Ho, ho, ho.

The trickes of the women Fayries told by Sib.

**T**o walke nightly as do the men Fayries, we vse  
not, but now and then we goe together, and at  
good Huswines fires we warme and dresse our  
Fairy children: if wee finde cleane water and  
cleane Towels, wee leaue them money either in their  
basons or in their shoes: but if wee find no cleane wa-  
ter in their houses, we wash our children in their pot-  
tage, milke, or berre, or what ere we finde; for the Quits  
that leaue not such things sitting, wee wash their faces  
and hands with a gilded childs clout: or elscarie them  
to some riuer and ducke them ouer head and eares: we  
often vse to dwell in some great Hill, and from thence  
we doe lend money to any poore man, or woman that  
hath need; but if they bring it not againe at the day  
appointed, we doe not only punish them with pinching,  
but also in their goods, so that they neuer thriue till they  
haue payd vs.

Tib and I the chiefeft are,  
And for all things doe take care:  
Licke is cooke, and dresseth meate,  
And fetcheth all things that we eate:  
Lull is Nurse and tends the cradle,  
And the babes doe dresse and swaddle:

F 2

This

I ne 2. part of Robin Good-fellow

This little fellow cald *Tom Thumb*,  
That is no bigger then a plumb,  
He is the Porter to our Gate,  
For he doth let all in therat,  
He makes vs merry with his play  
And merrily we spend the day.

Shee hauing spoken, *Tom Thumb* stood vp on tip-toe  
and shewed himselfe, saying,

My actions all in a Volumes two are wrote,  
The least of which, will neuer be forgot.

He had no sooner ended his two lines, but a Shepheard  
(that was watching in the field all night) blew vp a  
Bag-pipe: this so frighted Tom, that he could not tell  
what to doe for the present time. The Fazzies seeing  
Tom Thumb in such a feare, punisht the Shepheard  
with his Pipes lisse, so that the Shepherds Pipe pre-  
sently brake in his hand, to his great amazement: Here-  
at did Robin Good-fellow laugh ho, ho, hoh: mozning  
beeing come, they all halsted to Fazzie Land, where I  
thinke they yet remaine.

My Hostesse asked me how I liked this Tale: I  
said, it was long enough, and good enough to passe time,  
that might be worse spent: I seeing her dry, called for  
two pots: He emptied one of them at a draught, and ne-  
uer breathed for the matter: I emptied the other  
at leisure, and being late, I went to bed,  
and did dreame of this which  
I had heard.

FINIS.



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